

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, November 29, 2009

Schedule of Services

November 29th Sunday

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 1st Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Akathist

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Class

December 2nd Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

12:30 p.m. Class: St. Theophan the Recluse

7:00 p.m. Vespers

December 3rd Thursday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:30 p.m. Vespers

December 4th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Russian Vespers, Confession

December 5th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 6th Sunday St. Nicholas

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Truly the church is heaven upon earth; for where the throne of God is, where the awesome Sacraments are celebrated, where the angels serve together with men, ceaselessly glorifying the Almighty, there is truly heaven. And so let us enter into the house of God, with the fear of God, with a pure heart, laying aside all vices and every worldly care, and let us stand in it with faith and reverence, with understanding attention, with love and peace in our hearts, so that we may come away renewed, as though made heavenly; so that we may live in the holiness natural to heaven, not binding ourselves by worldly desires and pleasures.

St. John of Kronstadt

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for November 29th

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation and church school for the children. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door. Be aware that shortly after the sermon, the catechumens, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, will be dismissed, but you are invited to stay for the rest of the service.

To All: Please be aware that Holy Communion is open only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves for worthy participation in the Mystery through prayer, fasting, and a recent confession to a priest (within the last month or so). We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading).

Please Move Forward during the Liturgy! **Please be quiet** in the Narthex afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers lest to forget to read them on your own later.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for our library, next week for our priest.

Church School will meet as usual following the Liturgy today.

Classes this Week

Basics of Orthodoxy, Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Anaphora of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

St. Theophan the Recluse, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. We are reading and discussing his book *The Path of Salvation*.

Icon of St. Herman: The iconographer is about to begin the large icon of St. Herman we have commissioned which will occupy the alcove with our relic. The icon will cost us \$500. If anyone wishes to sponsor this offering in honor of our first North American Saint either in full or in part, now would be a good time!

Many Thanks to those who purchased the new vacuum this past week and those who cleaned the church.

Church Cleaners: We also need the faithful who love the Lord's house to volunteer to clean each week.

Bookstore: There are a number of catalogues from various Orthodox sources if anyone is interested in browsing them for gifts.

Alms: Besides the alms box on the candle table and special offerings, we have bins under the bookstore for two local charities: Woman to Woman, which helps unwed pregnant mothers, and Interfaith Ministries, which helps local people in need. Items such as food and diapers may be brought (see the sheet of needs on each bin). There is

also a bin for the new women's monastery. This sort of almsgiving is particularly appropriate during the upcoming Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast lasts through the Liturgy on Nativity morning (Dec 25). We abstain from meat and dairy for the whole fast, and fish, wine (alcohol), and oil (except when permitted per the wall calendar) and marital relations so that we can give more in alms, pray more effectively, and open our hearts more widely to God. As always, if you have questions or problems, please talk to your priest.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Thom Anderson, and for Adam & Melanie Betz, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Mary Moses, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire, and Ken & Pam Northam and their daughters Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Georgii. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers, and the nun Barbara, and Louise Newcomb, recovering from a broken hip and hip replacement surgery.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God, which also supports our efforts to proclaim the fullness of the Gospel of Christ in Denton through the establishment of a permanent Orthodox parish and new missions throughout Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church and placed in the basket on the candle table, where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$673.65 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$4171.70 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$32.50; Bookstore \$68; Building fund \$25; Special Gifts \$375. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 14, Liturgy 59.

From Saint Maximus

From the passions embedded in the soul, the demons take their starting base to stir up passionate thoughts in us. Then, by making war on the mind through them, they force it to go along and consent to sin. When it is overcome, they lead it on to a sin of thought, and when this is accomplished, they finally bring it as a prisoner to the deed. After this, at length, the demons who have devastated the soul through thoughts withdraw with them. In the mind there remains only the idol of sin about which the Lord says, "When you see the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, let him who reads understand." Man's mind is a holy place and a temple of God in which the demons have laid waste the soul through passionate thoughts and set up the idol of sin. That these things have already

